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## Orders enacted.

Ad COMMUNE conciliū,  
tētū in Guildhaldia ciuitatis  
Londini, xiii. die Octob. An-  
no regni Eduardi sexti, Dei  
gratia Angliæ, Frâciæ & Hi-  
bernix, regis, fidei defēforis,  
et in terra Ecclesiæ Anglica-  
næ, et Hybernix supremi ca-  
pitis 5. coram Andrea Iudde  
milite, tunc Maiore, & Aldre  
mānis ciuitatis illius, ordina-  
ta sunt inter alia, inactitata,  
concessa, & stabilita, omnia  
& singula subsequētia.

**F**Orasmuche as the Cytte of  
London, is of late yeaeres  
sore decayed, and daylye is  
like to decaye, more and more:  
A great cause & occasion wherof  
A.ij. among

## Orders enacted.

amonge other, hath beene for  
that free mens childre, (Orphanes  
of the saide City,) somtimes  
in the lyues of their Parentes, &  
sometimes after theire discea-  
ses, being leaste wealthy, & rich,  
do bestow theselues in vngod-  
ly mariages, for the moste parte  
in their young age, at their owne  
willes and pleasures, without  
the consēt, and against the min-  
des of their frendes, saying, and  
affirming, that the law, and cu-  
stome of the said citie geueth vn-  
to them their porcions, whether  
they marry by the assent of their  
frendes, or not, and so doe dai-  
lye caste away and vndoe them-  
selues, in trust to haue their sayd  
portions, whether their Paren-  
tes, or frendes, will or will not,  
and therby do they bestow them-  
selues vpon simple, and lyghte  
persons

## For Orphanes.

personnes, hauing neither cunning, knowledge, substaunce, ne good, nor honest conditions. By reason whereof such Orphanes, inordinately and insolently, doe spende, and consume their patrimony and portions in short time not only to the vndoing of themselves, & to the great ignominie & shame of their frendes, but also to the great slander of y<sup>e</sup> Lorde Mayor, and Aldermen of this citie, (who be reputed, and taken as Fathers, and Protectors of the same Orphanes,) and to the great losse, and hinderance of the sayd Citie.

And forasmuche as the sayde Lorde Mayor, and Citizeneg, haue by their Lawes, and customes, power, and aucthoritie, to make lawes, and ordynaunces,

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by their commune counsaile, for redresse of the same. It is therefore now (to thintent to reduce the same to a more Godly, more profitable, and decent order, and conformitie,) by the saide Lorde Maior, and communaltie, and Citizens, in this present comon counsaile assembled, & by authoritie of the same common Counsaile ordained, enacted, authorized & established, for a law perpetually to be obserued and kept within the saide citie. That if any Dyphane, or child of any free man or free woman of the saide citie do offende in any the thinges hereafter expressed, and bee therof lawfully conuicted, afore the Lord Maior and the Aldermen or els where, that then they and euery of them, shal to all intents

## for Orphanes.

tentes, purposes, constructions,  
and meaninges, be vnabled and  
barred to Demaunde and claime  
their porcion or porcions, & also  
shall lose & forgo & be barred for  
euer of all and euery his, her, or  
theire parte or partes and porci-  
ons to him or them belonginge,  
by & after the death of his or her  
said father or mother, of y<sup>e</sup> good-  
des and Cattels of euery suche  
father and mother, by reason of  
any Law, custome, ordinance,  
vlage, Fraunches, Priuiledge,  
acte of common Counsaile, or o-  
ther thinge heretofore had or v-  
sed within the saide Citie. The  
same Law, custome, ordinance,  
or other thing whatsoeuer, here-  
tofore had, made, ordeined, al-  
lowed and put in vze, to the con-  
trary in any wise notwithstan-

## Orders enacted.

ding: That is to witte. Firſte, if any māchild or womāchild, ſhall maliciouſlye go about, or attempt to do or cauſe to be done, any bodily harme, death, or deſtruction to his, or their, father or mother. Or if any Maunchilde, doe hereafter marry, or cōtract mariage in the life of his father or mother (by whom hee will claime anye portiō) vnder thage of xxi. yerēs, without the conſent of his ſayde father, or mother, by whome he will clayme any portion: Or if any Womanchilde, do hereafter marrye, or contracte Marriage, in the lyfe of her father, or other parent, by whom ſhe ſhal claime anye Portion, before the age of xviij. yerēs, without the conſent of her father, or ſuch other parēt, by whom ſhe ſhal or may claime  
any



## for Orphanes.

any portion: Or if any manchild be a theefe, or a felon, or a common whore haunter, a common Dylar, or a commune plaier at vnlawefull games, notoriouſlye knowne: Or if any womanchild ſhal hereafter comit any whoredome, or be a commune Picker, that then euery of the perſonnes ſo offending, ſhalbe barred and excluded to haue, or Demaunde any portion.

**P**rouided alwayes, that it ſhalbe lawfull for the Father, or Mother, of any ſuche childe, or children, to geue, and bequeathe in Legacie, to ſuche Childe, or Children, as muche as the Portion of ſuch Childe ſo offendinge ſhall amoūt vnto by the cuſtome of the ſayde Citie, and then ſuche Childe thereby to be enabled to  
A.b. haue

## Orders enacted.

haue, and demaund the same, as portion, this acte notwithstanding, so that the same Legacie be contained in his or their testamēt in writing, & not otherwise. And that then and from thenceforth his said childe or childrē, to be admitted & restored to claime such legacie, or legacies, in suche sort, maner, and forme, as if ther had beene neuer anie suche Offence done, or committed, by any such childe.

Item, it is further ordeined, enacted, aucthorized, and established by thauthoritie aforesaide, that if any womanchilde, being an Orphanē, and vnder the age of xxi. yeares, at any time hereafter, after the death of her father, do ensure or contract her selfe in marriage, or els according to the

Ec-

## For Orphanes.

Ecclesiastycall Lawes of this Realme, do perfectly solemnize, or cōsumate mariage, with any free man of this Citie, the consēt and agreement of the lord Maior, and Aldermen of this saide citie of London, for the time being, not obtained and had, that then, for euery suche Defaulte, and offence, committed or done, by any Orphane, or Orphanes, of the saide Citie, the same being confessed or sufficientlve proued by ij, witnesses, or otherwise, before the said Lorde Maior,, and Aldermen of this saide Citie of London, for the tyme being, at and in a Courte of Aldermen, shee or they that so happen to behaue her, or themselves, as is aforesaid, shal forfeite, forgo & lose xij. d. of & for euery pound, so due

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or to be due, vnto her, or them, by reason of any such Orphanage, the summe of xij.d. of euery pound, to go, or be to the vse of the chamber of the said city, according to y<sup>e</sup> ancient custome before thys time, in such case vsed. And if the sayd Contract or mariage of the said orphan or orphans, be made with any foreyn, not being fre of this citie, at the time of any such cōtract or maryage made, y<sup>e</sup> then the sayd orphā, or orphās & euery of them, shall forsaite & lose iij.s. of euery pound, due, or to be due vnto her, or them, by vertue of any orphanage, or custome, had, & vsed within the sayd citie. The one shilling of the sayde iij.s. of euery pounce, to goe, or to bee, to the vse of the chamber of the said city, in such maner and forme as

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is aforesayde. And the other ij. s. so forfeited, of euery pounce, to goe to the vse of suche other Orphane, or Orphanes, as then shall remaine vnmarried. Or els for defaulte of suche Orphanes, or Orphane, to remayne to the next of the kinred of the orphane so offending.

¶ Also be it further ordeined enacted and establisshed, by auctoritie aforesayd, for & in eschewing of diuers variaunces, contentions, and suites, that daiely heretofore haue, & hereafter may ensue: that if any fre mans child man, or woman, fortune to bee married hereafter, in the life time of hys or their father, by his consent, and not fully aduanced of and to, his, or her full parte, or portion, of hys, or her, sayde fathers

## Orders enacted

thers goods, as he shalbe worth  
at the time of his Decease, accor-  
ding to the ancient Lawes, and  
Customes of this sayde Citie: y  
then, euerye suche free mannes  
Childe, so being married in the  
life time of his, or her ffather,  
shalbe to al intentes, and purpo-  
ses disabled to Demaunde anye  
further parte, or portion, of his,  
or her ffather's goodes, after the  
decease of his or her father, but  
shalbe adiudged, reputed & take  
to be fully aduanced, according  
as the law & custome of this cy-  
tie hath beene long time out of  
minde, excepte his or her said fa-  
ther, do mention certainly in his  
laste will, or testament, or by o-  
ther writinge, signed wyth his  
owne proper name, or Marke,  
the certeintie of y sūme or sūmes  
of

## For Orphanes.

of money, gooddes, and Cattelles, and the value of them, that the father gaue, paide, or departed withall, or otherwise assured, or hereafter shall geue, pay, Depart withall, or otherwise make assurance of, vnto him, or her, before, at, or after y<sup>e</sup> mariage of him, or her, or otherwise in his life time, for and towarde their aduancementes, in the name of his, or her parte or portion. And then e- uery suche Orphane, or Childe, whiche after the Decease of hys or her said father can bring forth the sayde Testament, or other writing, signed or marked with the fathers hand or mark, wher- in the certeintie of such money, Gooddes, or Cattelles, as they haue, or shall haue receaued, of their saide father, or by the same father

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father, assured by especialitye, or other wise, shall haue as much of the readye money, gooddes, cattelles, and debtes of the sayd father, as (with that which hee, or they, shal haue receued towards their aduancements in the life of their sayde father,) shal make vp a full Childes parte, of hyg Gooddes, and Catteltes, as hee shalbe worth at the tyme of hyg Decease. The same to be demaunded, asked, and claymed, or sued for, agaynste the executoz, or executoures, administrator, or administrators of the goods and Catteltes of the sayde father, by bill Originall, to be comenced in our soueraigne Lord the Kings court, holden in the outer chamber of the guild hall, of the sayde Citie, before the said Lord Ma-



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yor, and Aldermen of the same  
citie for the time being, any law  
or custome, hertofore made, or u-  
sed, to the contrary notwithstanding. In which actiō no wager,  
of Law, or Essone, shalbe admit-  
ted or allowed.

**P**rovided alway, and it is  
further enacted, that if any free  
mannes soune, being of full age,  
whiche shal hereafter be married  
with the consent of his father, or  
any other person, beyng of full  
age which shal herafter marry a-  
ny freman's daughter) do at y<sup>e</sup> time  
of the espousailes, or at any tyme  
after, confesse them selues, by  
wrytinge fully satiffyed, of hys,  
or their portion, or do otherwise  
acquit and discharge, the father  
of such freman's sones, or daugh-  
ters, of all their parte and porty-

## Orders enacted.

on, due or to be due, by the lawe,  
and custome of the city, that the  
euery such person, so confessing  
acquitting, or otherwise dischar-  
ging, shal be reputed, and taken,  
as fully aduanced, of his or their  
wholl parte, or portyon, and shal  
not be enabled, to demaund any  
further, or greater parte of the  
substaunce, goodes, and cattels,  
of his, or her father, this law or a-  
ny other law or custome hereto-  
fore had, made or vled, to the co-  
trary notwithstanding.

And further, forasmuch as it is  
thought very preiudicial, & hurt-  
ful to the fatherles children, and  
Orphanes, when the mother, or  
mother in law, being executrix,  
of the last wil and Testament of  
her late husband, by whom, and  
after whose deathe, the Orpha-  
nes

## For Orphanes.

nes are intituled to an Orphanage, (accordyng to the said laudable customes of this citie,) Doe dyuers times marry, or contract matrimonye, some w<sup>th</sup> foreiners, and persons vnknownen, & some with free men, or euer a iust inuentorye of the gooddes, cattelles, plate, Jewelles, ready money of the Testatoures, bee by them brought in: By reason whereof, many times they (either for fear or affection of their husbands, or for some other sinister cause,) do bring in very suspicious Inuentories, omitting therein eyther readye money, plate, Jewelles, or Debtes, or some other thying, or thinges, whereby some benefite should redound to the fatherlesse children, to the greate losse, and hinderance of the Orphanes, &

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some time flaunder to the Lords Mayor, and Aldermen of this city, notwithstanding their great care, and trauell, that they take for the good ordering, and true answering of the sayd orphans.

¶ It is therefore, by like authoritie, ordeyned, establisshed & enacted that if after the first Day of nouember next ensuinge, any wyddowe, which is, or shall be made executrix of the testament and last wil of her late husband, (being a freman) or shall take vpon her thadministration of the gooddes and cattels, of her late husband (being a freman) do not vpon her oth bring in and exhibit, or cause to be brought in & exhibited, before the Lord Mayor, and Aldermen of this sayd City, for the tyme being, at and in a court  
of

## for Orphanes.

of Aldermen, a iuste and perfect  
Trentor (to their knowlege,)  
of all the goodes, cattelles, plate,  
and Jewels, ready money, and  
debtes as were her said husban-  
des at the tyme of his death, ap-  
praised according to the Law of  
þ sayd cite, before she doe ensure  
her selfe in mariage, or contracte  
mariage, or els according to the  
lawes of the Realme doe perfect-  
ly solemnise or consummate ma-  
ryage wyth anye person, before  
such time as aforesaid, that then  
euery person so offendinge shall  
forfaite and lose. viij. s. of euerye  
pounde of her portion of þ goods  
of her late husband, due to her by  
the laudable custome of this said  
citie, the same to goe to the vse of  
such orphan or orphanes, as then  
shalbe entitled to haue or demand  
any

## Orders enacted.

anye Orphanage or portion, after the death of his or her late father: the same to be demaunded asked, claymed, or sued for, agaynst such executrix, or administratrix by bil original of Debt, to be comēced in our soueraigne Lord the Kings court holden in the outer chamber of the Gnilde Hall of the sayd Citie beefore the Lorde Mayor and Aldermen of the same Citie, for the tyme being: any lawe. &c. In which Action, no waget. &c.

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*Cum Gratia, & Priuilegio, Regia Maiestatis.*

